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REAL DEFENCE

OF

A—| B—'s CONDUCT:

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WHEREIN IS CLEARLY EXPLODED

The Common ERROR so prevalent of
censuring this Gentleman's BEHAVIOUR,

BY A SERIES OF

INDISPUTABLE FACTS,

HITHERTO CONCEALED.

By a LOVER of TRUTH, and a FRIEND
to SOCIETY.

*Quod si hoc idem ex æternis tenebris contingeret
ut subitolumen aspiceremus: quamnam species cæli
videretur!*

ARIST.

L O N D O N:

Printed in the Year 1756.

REAL DEFENCE

OF

ALL THE CONDUCT

WHICH IS CALLED DEFENCE

The Common Error is presented
containing the Common Defences

By a Series of

VIDISITABLE FACTS



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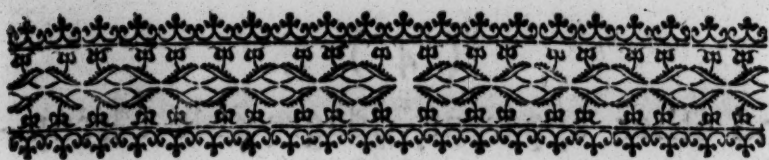


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A
REAL DEFENCE
OF

A——I B——'s CONDUCT, &c.

T is with much Reluctance I now take up the Pen to vindicate a Character so universally aspersed—unused to Scribble, and without Fee or Reward, nothing prompts me to this Undertaking but a natural Tenaciousness of Truth, and a fervent Desire to confute Error. After every Underling-Writer, *Grub-street* Garetteer, and half starved Poet has racked his Imagination, exhausted both his great and small Stocks of *Billingsgate* and Paper, and jaded *Pegasus* within an Inch of Mortality, I take the Liberty to Address the unprejudiced part of the Public, to form an Opinion of what can reasonably be said in favour of a Man, whose Conduct will perhaps appear to them in a more favourable Light, when certain false Glosses are taken off,

B 2 and

and other apparent disagreeable Circumstances turned into Illustrations.

It is necessary for the Discussion of this Subject to take a more extensive View, than the Limits the generality of the Examiners assign it. We are to consider that notwithstanding it is said so early as last *December* all Europe was apprised of the Design of the *French* to invade one or other of our Possessions in the *Mediterranean*, and that we should have been upon our guard to defend both *Minorca* and *Gibraltar*, yet there are many in this Kingdom who believed so late as the beginning of *May*, when, yet no certain News was come of the Debarkation of the *French* Troops, that Monsieur *de la Galiffioniere's* Squadron was not destined for *Minorca* but *America*. * And yet although Mr. B—g sail'd with his Squadron from *Plymouth* so early as the 9th of *April*, we did not want Antiministerial-Critics, who
blamed

* The Reason assigned for this Belief was that *Minorca* could not possibly turn out to so much Advantage to the *French*, in Case they should be possessed of it, as to reimburse the Expence of equipping so large a Fleet, as
Twelve

blamed our Negligence for what they called postponing the Departure of his Fleet, when we know that if the Winds had been favourable for him, he might have reach'd *Minorca* almost as soon as the *French Fleet* (which did not sail from *Toulon* till the 12th of *April*, and was then dispersed in a Storm) at least landed his Forces at *Mahon* e'er *Richlieu* had got any of his heavy Cannon up from *Cuidedella* to prevent him. But *Boreas* or the Fates ordered it otherwise; for Mr. B—g did not touch at *Gibraltar* 'till the 2d of *May*, and yet (notwithstanding what his Adversaries say) we have no Account of his tarrying at any Port of *Spain* or *Portugal* in his way, *whatever he might do in the Ocean*. Upon his Arrival at *Gibraltar*, he took in Water and some other Necessaries,

Twelve Ships of the Line, Five Frigates and 220 Transports, the supporting of a long and difficult Siege, and afterwards the guarding of the Island: To which they added, that the Expedition seemed every way to indicate the establishing of a Colony in *America*, there being on board not only several Hundreds of Women, but Numbers of Cattle, Printing Presses, and several Implements for Husbandry and Manufactures.

saries, while it was debated in a Council of War by General *F—ke*, and some other General Officers, whether or no it was proper to expose that Fortrefs to any unforeseen Attack, by diminishing the Garrison in the sending of *Guise's* Regiment to *Minorca*: So important a Debate could not be concluded in a Moment, and although Mr. *B—g* did give his Vote against the taking the Regiment on board, and at last sailed on the 8th without it, yet I think no reasonable Person can blame him for waiting the Result of the Council of War, especially as it was General *F—ke* that was responsible for the disobeying the Order sent him, and not the *A———* himself, *though he carried it.* †

MANY are the Sarcasms thrown out upon him, for the Time which elapsed from his Departure from here till his Arrival off *Mahon* the 19th of *May*; and although much is to be said to invalidate the

† In this Place it may not be unnecessary to observe, that the Report of Mr. *B——s* Writing to his —— from *Gibraltar*, and “ informing him of his Arrival the 2d of “ *May*, his intention of setting Sail the 8th, and

the Insinuations there made, I must own Eleven Days are a great Period for sailing from *Gibraltar* to within sight (only) of *Mahon*, especially when we consider that Lieutenant O——a, brought us Advice that at his Departure from *Gibraltar* the 7th of *May*, the Wind was favourable for Mr. B——, as it remained for Three Days, so that we had concluded he was arrived at *Minorca*, the 11th, or 12th, at farthest, and were much impatient to be informed of his having beat the *French* in his Way, as several false *Dutch* Reports had much flattered us, when *Gallifoniere's* Account of the Action, of the 20th arrived at *Paris*, and was transmitted here by the way of *Brussels*. But a *Levanter* might have arose, (though indeed they are not common

“ and endeavouring to land the Troops, in
 “ case he met with no Opposition.----But that
 “ if he should, he would return to *Gibraltar* ”
 seems to have been entirely misconstrued, as representing this a Mark of his Intention not to encounter the *French*, when it only intimated in case he could not have an Opportunity of throwing Lord *Robert B——s* Regiment into the Garrison he would return, and there wait for one.--His attacking the Enemy as he did, confuting this Interpretation manifestly.

common in *May*) and obliged him to remain on the Coast of *Spain* for some Days, therefore we should not be severe upon him for this.

THE general Consternation which the *French* Ad——l's Account threw us into is better to be imagined than here attempted to be expressed, especially as it might recall some disagreeable Ideas, which the Extract of Mr. B——s Letter I hope greatly suppressed. It's plain Mr. B——g, imagined it would give general Satisfaction, and consequently confute all Reports to his Disadvantage; for he begins telling Mr. C—— "I have the *Pleasure* to *desire* that you will Acquaint &c." And since he had such Pleasure only in the Desire to acquaint their Lordship's, what Joy ought the Public to have, in being acquainted with what gave him such Satisfaction in the Relation to their L——ds——ps, yet it is evident by the Lampoons, Sarcasms, and Censures, which prevail, that the Public has not given all the Attention due to this elaborate Epistle, or at least, being unacquainted with the Phrases, has not clearly understood the most interesting Part; therefore I shall endeavour to illustrate some

some of the most intricate Passages, by which I hope to throw a great Light upon Mr. B——'s Conduct, and at the same time, in vindicating him, do manifold Service to most of the Readers of his Letter. He says "They (the Enemy) at first stood
 "toward us, and tacked about Seven, which
 "I judged was to endeavour to gain the
 "Wind of us in the Night, so that being
 "late I tack'd in order to keep the
 "Weather Gage of them, as well as
 "to make sure of the Land-Wind: *In the*
 "*Morning, being very hazy*, and not above
 "Five Leagues off *Cape Mola*, we tacked
 "off towards the Enemy *at Eleven*, and
 "at *Day Light* had no sight of them: but
 "Two *Tartans* with the *French* private
 "Signal, being close in with the Rear of
 "of our Fleet, I sent the *Princess Louisa*
 "to Chace one, and made the Signal for
 "the Rear Admiral, who was nearest the
 "other to send Ships to Chace her. The
 "*Princess Louisa, Defiance, and Captain,*
 "*became* at a great Distance, but the
 "*Defiance* took her's." By the Enemy's
 standing towards, many imagine he was
 attacked by them, but that . proves a
 Mistake, for it was only to gain the
 C Wind-

Windward Gage; however (see what Prudence!) he tacked too to make sure of the Weather Gage and the Land-Wind, or, as some will have it, prevent being attacked, undoubtedly to have the Honour of attacking them. Some imagine that from this (the Morning) to Eleven o'Clock at Night could not be passed in tacking off and off, but that something more Important must have been done, but that is an Error, as we find at *Day Light* he had no Sight of them. Having made a Signal for the Rear Admiral, who was nearest, to Chace the *Tartans*, many are surprized that the *Defiance* and *Captain* he sent, should (altho' Part of the Rear A——l's Division) become at a great Distance, and yet that the *Defiance* should take her's, (I suppose the *Tartan* she was in pursuit of) but we find there is nothing so common as Ships Fighting at a great Distance, the *Ram*——es having attacked the *French* Ship opposite to her, when without Gun-Shot.

“ As soon as I judged the Rear of ours
 “ was the Length of their Van, we tack'd
 “ all together, and I immediately made the
 “ Signal for the Ships that led to lead
 “ Large,

“ Large, and for the *Deptford* to quit the
 “ Line, that ours might become equal in
 “ Number with theirs.” Many insist that
 the *English* of this is, that the *French Van*
 having come up with our Rear, he made
 the Ships to separate and the *Deptford*
 get out of the Line, that they might
 make the more haste from the *French*.
 But I am very apt to believe, that this
 Period cannot be so construed, especially
 when we consider that this Perversion of
 Sense is owing to the indiscriminate Use
 made by Mr. B——g, of the Verb to
become, the Application of which in more
 Places than this *became* very improper.—
 And to a Mistake of Impression, which
 we apprehend is the putting *Rear* for *Van*
 and *Vice Versa*. It is also imagined that
 there is a Mistake in saying. “ And here
 “ I must express my great *Satisfaction* at
 “ the very gallant Manner in which the
 “ *Rear Admiral* set the *Van* the Example.”

He says *very prettily* “ I found the
 “ Enemy edged away constantly, and as
 “ they went Three Feet to our One,
 “ they would never permit our closing
 “ with them.”

It has been Objected to this Passage, that no Ship can sail Three Feet to another's One, but these Objectors confute themselves, when they pretend Mr. B—— run away when the *French Fleet* stood still, — which was at the Rate of 20 or 30 or as many Feet as you will to— None.

“ The next Morning we saw nothing of the Enemy, tho' we were still laying too : *Mabon* was N. N. W. about Ten or Eleven Leagues.” Some Hypercritics pretend that he fairly owns here that he run away ; for having told us he was the 29th. “ Not above Five Leagues off *Cape Mola*.” To get Ten or Eleven Leagues to the N. N. W. must evidently argue he went from *Mabon*. — But these rash Censurers never consider he got the Weather Gage by this.

HE tells us afterwards that having from a State of the Ships brought him in, found the *Captain, Intrepid, and Defiance*, were very much damaged &c. He thought proper in that Situation to call a Council of War, before he went again too look for the Enemy — at which Council not the least Contention or Doubt arose.

HERE

HERE they want to be informed, upon what Subject this Council of War, was held. — It's easy to be imagined that the Subject, (altho' not a Word is said of it in this Letter,) was whether or no the throwing Lord *Robert B——e's* Regiment into the Garrison of *St. Phillip*, was Practicable — which to besure was not at Eleven Leagues off.

“ I dont send their L——s the Particulars of our Losses and Damage by this,
 “ as it would take me too much time,
 “ and that I am willing none should be
 “ lost in letting them know an Event
 “ of such Consequence.

WHAT Consequence (cry our Satyrists) the running away of the Fleet, the Dishonour of the *British* Flag? or is it the Loss of *Minorca* which must inevitably be the Consequence? suppose I were to answer one or all to indulge their Spleen. — But is not even a *sham* Battle, between two such powerful Squadrons, a Matter of Importance not only to their L——sps but to all *England*.

“ I HAVE just sent the Defects of the
 “ Ships as I have got it made out whilst I
 “ was closing my Letter.”

Grammarians

Grammarians censure this Passage.—

But they should consider an Admiral's Business is not to Write, but to Fight, and that our greatest Naval Heroes have been no Scholars—consequently B—g might have fought well.

UPON the whole I flatter myself I have cleared up the most doubtful Passages in this Letter, which I think, in the Light I have placed it, will admit much to be said for, and nothing against Mr. B—g. We are to consider that the Loss of *Minorca* is not so much to be imputed to Mr. B——'s bad Conduct (if so you will still call it) as the Weakness of the Garrison composed of only Four Regiments, who had been there above Two Years, and consequently reduced (according to computation, by the loss of 400 a Year, occasioned by the Climate) to 2000 Men, and therefore it was wisely judged in the Council of War held on board the *Ramillies*, that the throwing in Lord R——t B——e's Regiment was not only impracticable but useless, as the Place was besieged by 14 or 15000 *French*, and would be making a Sacrifice of 800 Men. At the same Time I would not throw any Imputation upon the
the

the G——t, by intimating this Island was not properly provided for to make a Defence, for really I must be first convinced of it's Utility to this Nation; and whether (supposing it might be of some small Importance for the Protection, especially in time of War, both of the *Levant* Trade and Men of War, and their refitting in case of being Damaged) the annual Expence for the Support of the Garrison there amounting to 50000 *l.* and the Sum total for 48 Years, that we have been possessed of it, to Two Millions and Four Hundred Thousand Pounds, have been reimbursed, or whether we have drawn Advantages from it, either in a Commercial or Maritime way that have been Equivalent.—It is plain by the secret Article in the Treaty of *Aix la Chapelle*, whereby *England* obliges herself not to keep more than Six or Seven Men of War stationed in the *Mediterranean* in any one time of Peace, that *Minorca* was not then looked upon of equal Importance to the disobliging the *French* Court, whose Friendship was recovered by this *Definitive* Treaty.

BUT supposing *Minorca* to have been of the utmost Importance, and the Success
of

of the Siege to have depended entirely upon Mr. B——g's driving the *French* Squadron from before *Mahon*, as he tells the M——ry in his *own* Letter (I do not mean the Extract of one printed in the G——te) that he has gained a Victory, I doubt not but he remains Master of the Port, notwithstanding what is made for him to say in the pretended Ex——t, and the apocryphal Advices of his being block'd up in the Port of *Malaga*. But be that as it may, none of our Ships are lost (Indeed the *Phoenix* had like to have been taken) which every one must agree would be a real Loss, as they are the only Bulwarks of our Commerce, our Liberties—our All! and if he has not succoured General Bl——y in a Manner many pretend to wish, to a Person of Discernment it's past all doubt, he has given occasion for a more glorious Exploit, the brave and sagacious Defence *Blakeney* has made at the Siege of *Fort St. Philip*, which must establish to perpetuity the Reputation of the *British* Courage and Military Skill—and whatever slur some may impute to our Flag, we all know we shall have Opportunities enough (supposing there

there any Stain brought upon it) to wipe that off in this present and (I hope) successful War.

It is evident then that A——l B——g has done an important service to this K——m (even allowing every Circumstance in his pre——t——ded Letter, and the different Accounts to be true) he has saved the Nation 50000 *l.* a Year, which it expended by the Garrison of *Minorca* ; he has had the Address to free us from the Trouble of taking Care of that Island, and being at the Charge of supporting a Fleet in the *Mediterranean* to guard it,—saved the Lives of a whole Regiment by not endeavouring (*impracticably*) to throw them into the Garrison ; preserved his Majesty's Fleet entire—all but the Fore-top-Mast of the *Intrepid* ; given an Opportunity to General *Blakeney* to display the *British* Courage, and surrender, tho' with a Garrison of not more than Twelve Hundred Men, upon the most honourable Terms.—He has done more (if it is true he has had the *Finesse* to let himself be blocked up at *Malaga*)—Given the *French* a fine Opportunity too, of freeing us, by the Assistance of the *Spaniards*, from the Trouble and

D Expence

Expence of supporting any longer that disagreeable and useless Fortrefs of *Gibraltar*—a Fortrefs that has always been held by us at the Price of the Envy and Distrust of the *Spaniards*, who undoubtedly would never be so severe upon our Interlopers at *Campeachy* and *Honduras*, if our Possession of *Gib—r* did not excite them to sting us for not keeping our Promise made in the Year Twenty One, and which Mr. *B—g* has given us so favourable an Opportunity of fulfilling now.

IF after this any should call Mr. *B—g*'s Courage in question, let them remember—out of a Point of Honour (whether *false* or *true* is not necessary to be discussed here) he threw the *Deptford* out of the Line, to fight * the *French* upon equal Terms—which is a clear Conviction of his Bravery; and whatever Imputation, any Misconduct might have thrown upon him in this not sham—but real Engagement, this is sufficient to clear.

I HAVE heard it remark'd, that now the *French* have got the Possession of *Minorca*, (and as in all Probability the *Span---ds* may repofsess

* I think I have before shewn, *it was not to run away from the French upon equal Terms.*

repossess themselves of *Gib—r*) our *Levant* Trade will be utterly destroy'd during this War, as there will not be a Port of Safety for our Merchantmen to put in, in all the *Mediterranean*; and consequently without very considerable Convoys, and such as we shall not be able to spare, there will be no continuing the *Turkey* Trade 'till the End of the War. Perhaps it may be an agreeable Intelligence to inform the Reader (especially if he has Mr. B—g's Honour much at Heart) that we really can loose very little by that, for that the *French* have almost entirely rivaled us in every Branch of that Trade, by a mistaken Maxim in Commerce (which they seem now to have adopted in Politics) of prosecuting with Vigour what they begin with Success —of having all their Orders executed with Precision and Dispatch---of employing the best Hands and rewarding Merit.

BUT beside this Reason for imagining, we shall not lose any part of our Trade to the *Levant*, by *Minorca* being in the Hands of the *French*, there are others, if we consider that it is generally imagined a Quadruple Alliance, is going to be formed between our C——t and those of *Berlin*,
Turin,

Turin, and *Petersbourg*, in order to counter-balance the late Alliance between the Empress Queen and the *French* King, and that such a Convention will in all likelihood draw on not only a *German*, but an *Italian* War, we may depend upon his *Sard——n* M——'s not failing to be provided with Naval Succours from us in the *Mediterranean*, which may equally serve to Convoy (if so his *Sard——n* M—— will permit) our Mer——tmen, in case any should be still employed in the *Turkey* Trade. An anti-ministerial Critic, might take occasion here to observe we should then furnish an Ally with Naval Force sufficient to protect *Sardinia*, or the Coast of *Italy*; which might have defended *Minorca* — but which it's plain we were too covetous to send time enough — But let such consider, Engagements must be fulfilled *at whatever expence*.

BEFORE I dismiss this Pamphlet (altho' I think I have sufficiently cleared Mr. *B---g's* Conduct) I must take Notice of something of an Harping against the *M——ry*, which has prevailed, not only in some of the Daily and other Papers, but also in public as well as in private Companies.

nies.---It is an insinuation " that Mr.
 " B---g's Instr---tions were to not attack
 " the Fr----- Fleet or endeavour to
 " throw in his Succours at *Minorca*;" There
 would need very little Pains to refute so
 groundless an Aspersion, if I were not in-
 formed from very good Authority, we shall
 in a few Days see these In-----s printed
 and published; wherefore I shall not at-
 tempt to prove any thing more here in re-
 gard to such Insinuations, than that if those
 who propagate them, propose palliating
 Mr. B---g's Conduct (supposing it to re-
 quire any Palliation) by them, they are
 much mistaken, as I will prove by this
 simple Question.-----Is Cowardice (which
 certainly cannot be a premeditated Crime,
 and therefore less Criminal than such) an
 Imbecillity, which human Nature has not
 yet discovered a Remedy for, as culpable--
 as dangerous---as deservedly punishable---
 as the Execution of a formed Plan to Aid
 the Destruction of (at least) a Thousand of
 our Fellow Country Men,---the S---le of
 a Limb of our Monarchy---the mark--t--g
 of our Honour, &c. &c? Any rational
 Being's Answer to this plain Question, will
 corroborate what I have before asserted,
 that

that those who endeavour to apologize for Mr. B---g's Conduct by such Insinuations as above, miss their Aim and render him *blacker*, in the Eyes of all reasonable Men, than those who suppose him the errantest of Cowards.

By what I have said here I would not be understood to insinuate that Mr. B---g's Behaviour has any ways tarnished his Honour---far be it from me to harbour such a thought, as I am sure the Reader by this time is clearly convinced; and I think there is nothing left for me to point out but some *Noble---Honourable* POST or EMPLOYMENT that may be an adequate Recompence for the manifold Services he has done his Country.

A FRIEND of mine hinted to me in this Place, that recommending Mr. B---g to supplant A-----l Bos---n, who has been infructuously laying before *Brest* Harbour these three Months, waiting the coming out of Mr. Conf---n's Squadron, would be a proper Employment,---but I must acknowledge, I believe Mr. B---n will behave as well as Mr. B---g would in that Post,---for though some Ships have escaped out of *Brest* and run to *America* and
else

elsewhere.---I dont find Mr. B---n has run too---not that I imagine Mr. B---g would *run-away from*---but *after* them *to besure*.

BUT I think I have hit upon the properest *Post* for Mr. B---g. We have long wanted an Institution, which would be of the utmost Benefit to Society, especially in a Country, where we are convinced by fatal Experience, Dueling is so common—I mean no other than that of a Court of Honour, where all Affronts and every thing relating thereto should be decided,—and as we could not pitch upon a more proper Person for understanding all the Punctilios of Honour than Mr. B---g, and whose consummate Courage would let no Poltroon escape condign Punishment,—I am for making him President or Judge of this Court, with a Salary of 50000*l*, or as much more as the G---t shall please, a Year; and for his more graceful appearance upon the Bench,—he might be created Knight of One of the Orders, (the Garter is the most Noble) And as he is so thoroughly versed in maritime Affairs, I would have the Sentences of all Courts Mart—I be liable to Appeal
to

to the Court of *Honour* — then we would never need apprehend any Misconduct in our *Nav—l* Affairs, — any severe Sentences for Fighting — *tho' Contrary to Orders.* In short we might expect to see then, and *then only*, the *British* Flag, truly revered and dreaded over the Face of the whole Globe, — the *Gallie* Cock, plumed of the false Feathers he has borrowed — and our Lion trample upon Slavery, — our Commerce extended — our Manufacturies prized. — In short every thing undergo a surprising change *for the better*, and this be once more the Golden Age for *Britain*.

WITH the hearty wish that the M—ry may take the above hint, for rewarding Mr. B—g according to his deserts, — I am impatiently waiting this great Ad—l's Arrival, to congratulate him upon his extraordinary Success and Victory in the *Medd—n*.

F I N I S.

